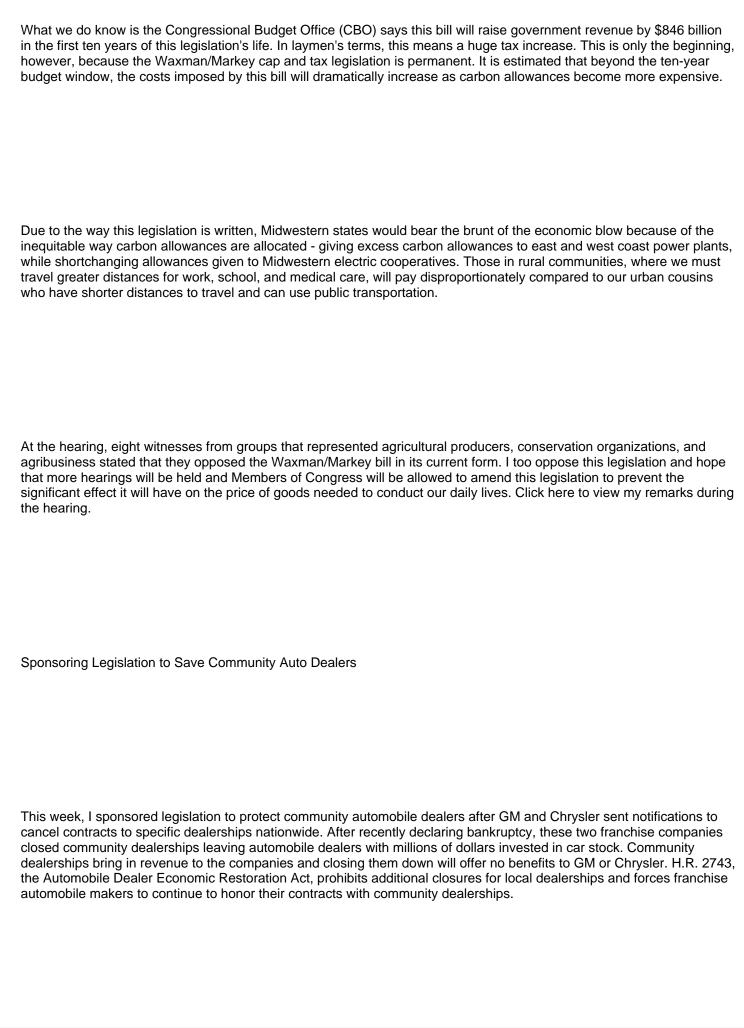
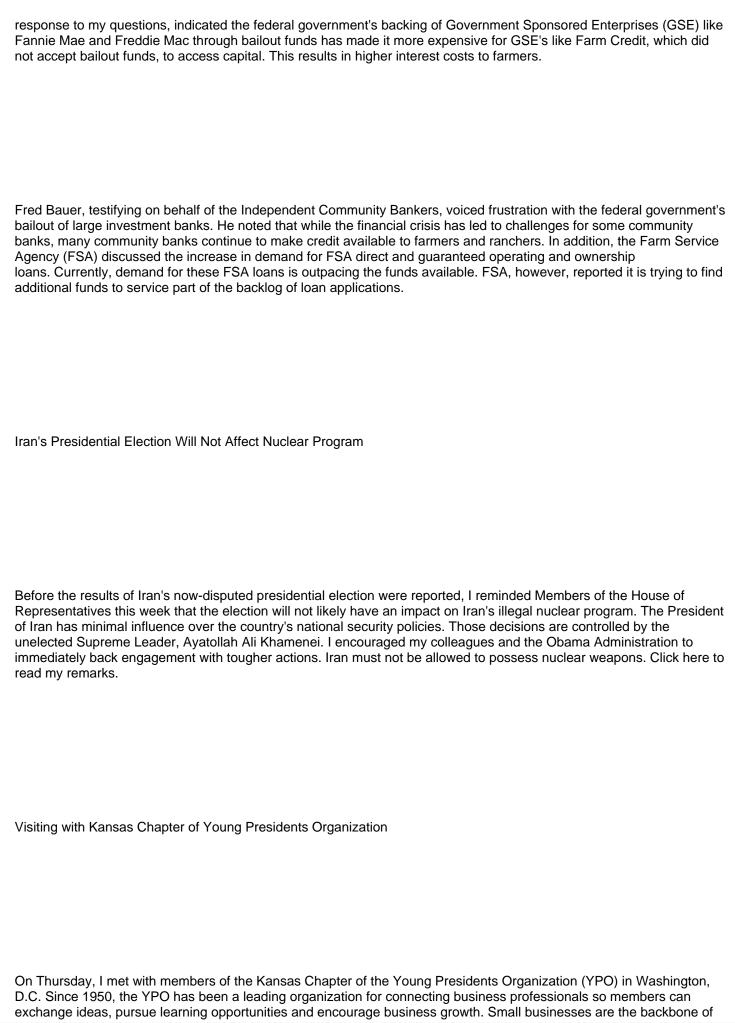
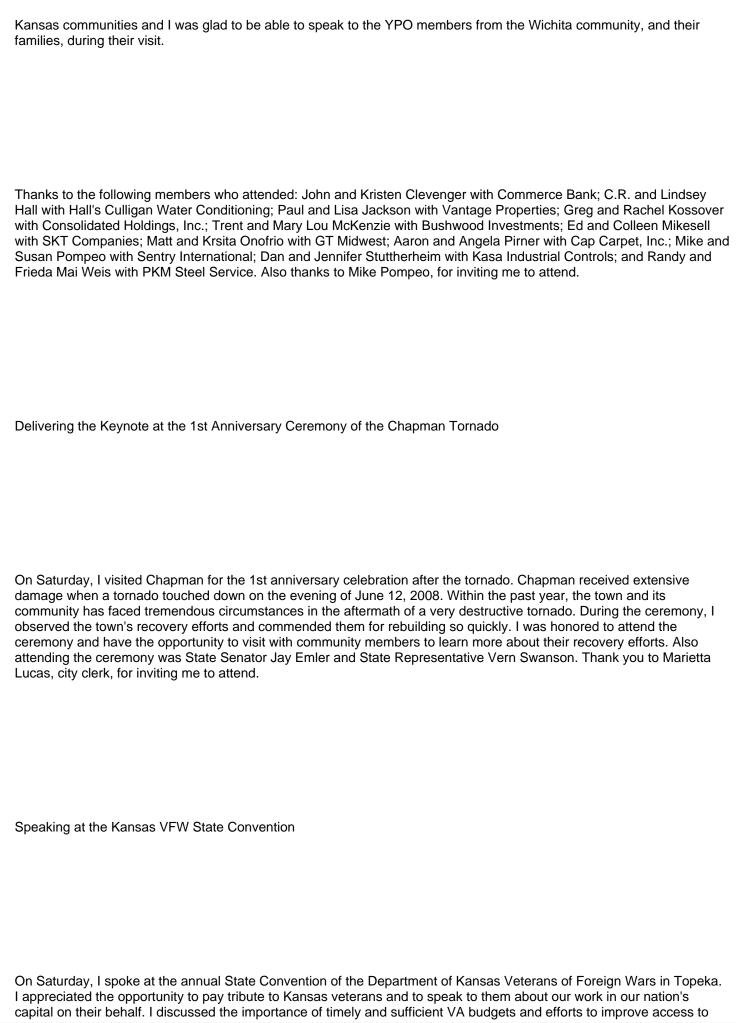
## 6/15/2009 This Week in Congress

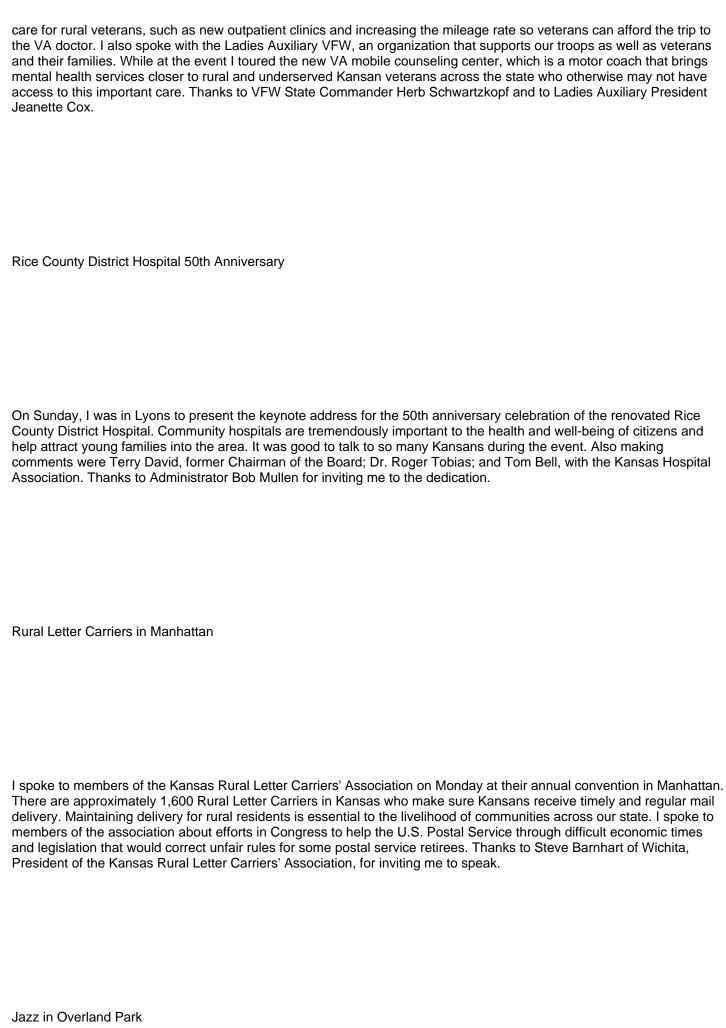
This Week in Congress
June 15, 2009
Dear Friend,
Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful.
Agriculture Hearing on Cap and Tax Bill
On Thursday, the House Agriculture Committee held a seven hour hearing to review the Waxman/Markey cap and tax climate change legislation. At the hearing, both Democrat and Republican members voiced frustration with this bill's hastily crafted, ill-conceived provisions. Despite unveiling this 1,000 page document less than one month ago, the Speaker of the House is intent on forcing this legislation to a vote despite any solid economic analysis on the impact of the legislation. This was acknowledged by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. I asked the Secretary: "What do you estimate the increase in costs to be for farmers as a result of this legislation?" He replied: "I can't give you a specific number today, in large part because the analysis upon which we would make that determination has not been completed I think it is fair to say there may be additional costs associated with a farming operation, but it is very difficult to quantify."



I have worked to find a solution to prevent community auto dealers from being forced to close their doors. Last month, I talked with the White House to share the concerns I have heard from Kansas auto dealers and also recently joined Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins in opposing the Automotive Task Force and the White House plan for the Auto Industry. I am glad to sponsor this legislation as it will save dealers' contracts with GM and Chrysler and will protect local dealerships, economies and jobs.
Speaking to Kansas Governor's Military Council
This week, I spoke to members of the Governor's Military Council in the Capitol Visitor Center during their visit to Washington, D.C. Formed by the Governor's office in 2006, the Governor's Military Council is made up of appointed military and community leaders to maintain and strengthen the military presence in the state of Kansas. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I was glad to have the opportunity to speak with the Council about military issues affecting our Kansas communities.
Thanks to Executive Director John Armbrust of Manhattan; Pat Gallagher of Wichita; Alonzo Harrison of Topeka; Zarchary Hauser of Topeka; Doug Kinsinger of Topeka; John Montgomery of Junction City; Adam Nordstrom of Washington, D.C.; State Senator Roger Reitz of Manhattan; Tim Rogers of Salina; Mike Shilling of Manhattan; Linda Weis of Manhattan; and General Deborah Rose of Topeka, with the Kansas National Guard. Click here for a photo.
Subcommittee Hearing to Review Credit Conditions in Rural America
On Thursday morning I attended a hearing held by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research to review credit conditions in rural America. The Subcommittee heard from seven different witnesses involved in various aspects of agricultural lending. Bob Frazee, a witness testifying on behalf of Farm Credit, in







After flying back to Kansas Friday afternoon, I stopped in Overland Park to attend Jazz in the Woods, a free community event organized by the Overland Park South Rotary Club. The annual festival is a fund raiser for local children's charities. This year, funds raised will go to the Fox 4 Love Fund for Children, Marillac, the Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center and the Overland Park South Rotary Club Foundation. It was great to see so many members of the community come out to support a good cause. Thanks to all of the volunteers for helping make the event a success and Rotarian, Cindy Green, for her hospitality.
Visiting Fort Scott Cemetery
Two weeks ago, I made a visit to Fort Scott National Cemetery in Fort Scott. A National Cemetery is generally a military cemetery containing the graves of U.S. military personnel, veterans and their spouses. In 1999, Fort Scott National Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I was glad to have the opportunity to visit one of our Kansas cemeteries that honors our state military members.
In the Office
Jordan Hildebrand, Alisa Wendelburgh and Merlyn Spare of Stafford; Jillian Martin and Laela Menzer of Great Bend; and Trenton Heinen of Downs were in the office with Kansas FFA to learn about Congress and discuss current issues being debated in Washington. Greg Noll and Vickie Woodbury of Topeka, John Jacobson of Wichita, Jim Brewer of Leon, Don Reinert of Peabody, Dan Carrigan of Overland Park and Jay Jackson of Olathe, with the Propane Marketers for Kansas, came into the office this week to talk about how climate change legislation would affect the propane industry. Haley DaVee of Topeka, with the Kansas Credit Union, stopped in to discuss regulatory reform in the financial services industry.

Jeane Hultquist of Wichita was in with U.S. Ag Bank to tell me how current economic conditions are affecting the Farm Credit System. Allan Sents of McPherson, with the U.S. Cattleman's Association, came by to discuss issues affecting the beef industry. Chris and Joanna Wilson of Manhattan, Lois Schlickeau of Hutchinson, Abby Dechant of Alma and Carolyn Kleiber of Hillsboro, with Kansas Agri-Women, visited the office to share the group's views on a variety of issues affecting the agricultural industry.

Jennifer and Ashlee Martinson and Lou Ann Kibee of Hays; Billy Thompson, Garrett Hamm and Roger Frischenmeyer of Hutchinson; Don Dew of Gorham, Marie Clement of Mayetta; and Nick Wilder of Lawrence, with SKIL of Western Kansas, stopped by to discuss policies to secure inclusion and equality for disabled Kansans. Dana Knott of Hutchinson came in with Dillon's Stores to update me on Dillon's efforts to help feed the hungry in Kansas. Molly and Peggy Johnson of Wichita, Gay Cornell of Coffeeville and Pamela Black of Valley Center were in with One Voice Against Cancer to visit about support of cancer research, screening and early detection initiatives.

Christine Seaton of Wichita, with American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA), stopped by to discuss support for nursing workforce development programs and funding for kidney disease. Rose Mary Mohr, Larry Walton, Sherri Luthe and Teresa Carelady of Wichita, with Mental Health America, visited the office to talk about programs to support the mental health and wellness of Kansas youth and families. Phil Bradley of Topeka was in with the Kansas Licensed Beverage Association to share his opposition to proposals that would tax licensed beverages to pay for a public health plan.

Lori Church, Les Diehl, David Hanson and Terry Tiede of Topeka; Keith Birkhead and Rick Wilborn of McPherson; and Tony and Kristi Kimmi of Manhattan, with the Kansas Insurance Association, stopped in to discuss the federal government's role in regulating insurance products as well as to update me on upcoming legislation. Johnnie Johnson and Brian Spurgeon of Hays, with the Rural Cellular Association, came in to talk about the Universal Service Fund, data roaming agreements and the importance of expanding availability of mobile devices for rural customers. Chris Orwoll of Hutchinson, with the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, visited the office to discuss the Cosmosphere's cultural and educational value to the state and the need to ensure its viable future.

Cori Wenger and Donna Forintino of Topeka, with Osteoporosis Services, came by to discuss how to address the growing problem of osteoporosis and preventable bone fractures. Half of all women and one fourth of all men over age 50 will experience an osteoporosis related fracture in their lifetime, at a cost of more than \$18 billion per year. Timothy Rogers, Executive Director of the Salina Municipal Airport, was in to update me on the future plans at the Salina airport. Gary Shorman of Hays, Chuck Westin of Belleville and Eric Payne of Wichita also stopped by to visit.
Cindy Green of Leawood, visited my office as a member of the Kansas Association of Realtors to discuss energy efficient building policy, health care reform legislation and the homebuyer tax credit.
Several Kansans visited my Washington, D.C., office this week to receive a Capitol tour, including Larry and Cathy Dunlap and Larry and Helen Gregg of Salina, Ellie Dunlap of Lawrence, David and Madison Nichols of Topeka and John and Carol Pearson of Lindsborg. Also in for a tour were Erik, Kathryn and Isaac Ganstrom of Seneca; Katie Greenwood of Beloit; Jason and Niki Tollefson of Hiawatha; Rory and Tricia Poulain of Hutchinson; Catherine Losey of Hugoton; and Vicky Wilkinson of Emporia. In from Bogue were Timothy, Karen and Seth Thompson; Carlie and Cody Johnson; Larry and Beth Beam; Wyatt Robinson; Christian Covington; and Bryn Benoit.
Very truly yours,
Jerry